

Amendment and Response

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Serial No.: 10/632.070

Confirmation No.: 2056

Filed: 31 July 2003

For: TEARABLE ELASTIC COMPOSITE ARTICLE AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURE**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-identified application:

1. (Original) An elastic composite article having a width, and a length greater than the width of the article, the article comprising:

a nonwoven fibrous first coverweb comprising a down-web direction aligned with the length of the article and a cross-web direction transverse to the down-web direction;

a tear pattern in the form of a plurality of separate and distinct weakened areas formed in the first coverweb;

a second coverweb attached to the first coverweb;

a plurality of elastic filaments located between the first coverweb and the second coverweb, the plurality of elastic filaments aligned along the length of the article, wherein each elastic filament of the plurality of elastic filaments extends continuously over the entire length of the article.

2. (Original) An article according to claim 1, wherein the article is free of any woven or knitted webs.

3. (Original) An article according to claim 1, wherein the second coverweb comprises a nonwoven fibrous web, and wherein the elastic composite article comprises binder impregnating the first coverweb and the second coverweb.

4. (Original) An article according to claim 3, wherein the binder comprises cohesive binder material, wherein the elastic composite article comprises a cohesive elastic composite article.

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5. (Original) An article according to claim 1, wherein the second coverweb is free of any tear pattern comprising a plurality of separate and distinct weakened areas.
6. (Original) An article according to claim 1, wherein the weakened areas comprise embossed areas.
7. (Original) An article according to claim 1, wherein the weakened areas comprise perforations formed through the first coverweb.
8. (Original) An article according to claim 1, wherein the tear pattern comprises a plurality of rows of the weakened areas, wherein each row of the plurality of rows extends in the cross-web direction across the first coverweb, and wherein the rows are distributed along the down-web direction of the first coverweb.
9. (Original) An article according to claim 1, wherein, within the plurality of weakened areas, the weakened areas located adjacent each other across the cross-web direction of the first coverweb are separated by a land, and further wherein the ratio of a cross-web width of one of the adjacent weakened areas to a cross-web width of the land between the adjacent weakened areas is 1:1 or higher.
10. (Original) An article according to claim 1, wherein, within the plurality of weakened areas, the weakened areas located adjacent each other across the cross-web direction of the first coverweb are separated by a land, and further wherein the ratio of a cross-web width of one of the adjacent weakened areas to a cross-web width of the land between the adjacent weakened areas is 1.5:1 or higher.

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11. (Original) An article according to claim 1, further comprising a pressure sensitive adhesive on at least one major surface of the elastic composite article.
12. (Original) An article according to claim 1, wherein the second coverweb comprises a nonwoven fibrous coverweb comprising a down-web direction aligned with the length of the article and a cross-web direction transverse to the down-web direction, and wherein the second coverweb further comprises a tear pattern in the form of a plurality of separate and distinct weakened areas formed in the second coverweb.
13. (Currently Amended) [An article according to claim 12] An elastic composite article having a width, and a length greater than the width of the article, the article comprising:
a nonwoven fibrous first coverweb comprising a down-web direction aligned with the length of the article and a cross-web direction transverse to the down-web direction;
a tear pattern in the form of a plurality of separate and distinct weakened areas formed in the first coverweb;
a second coverweb attached to the first coverweb, wherein the second coverweb comprises a nonwoven fibrous coverweb comprising a down-web direction aligned with the length of the article and a cross-web direction transverse to the down-web direction, and wherein the second coverweb further comprises a tear pattern in the form of a plurality of separate and distinct weakened areas formed in the second coverweb, wherein the weakened areas of the first coverweb are not aligned with the weakened areas of the second coverweb;
a plurality of elastic filaments located between the first coverweb and the second coverweb, the plurality of elastic filaments aligned along the length of the article, wherein each elastic filament of the plurality of elastic filaments extends continuously over the entire length of the article.

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14. (Original) An article according to claim 12, wherein the weakened areas comprise embossed areas.
15. (Original) An article according to claim 12, wherein the weakened areas comprise perforations formed through the second coverweb.
16. (Original) An article according to claim 12, wherein the tear pattern in the second coverweb comprises a plurality of rows of the weakened areas, wherein each row of the plurality of rows extends in the cross-web direction across the second coverweb, and wherein the rows are distributed along the down-web direction of the second coverweb.
17. (Original) An article according to claim 12, wherein the first coverweb and the second coverweb are substantially identical.
18. (Original) An elastic composite article having a width and a length greater than the width of the article, the article comprising:
- a nonwoven fibrous first coverweb comprising a down-web direction aligned with the length of the article and a cross-web direction transverse to the down-web direction;
 - a tear pattern in the form of a plurality of separate and distinct weakened areas formed in the first coverweb, wherein the tear pattern comprises a plurality of rows of the weakened areas distributed along the down-web direction of the first coverweb, wherein each row of the weakened areas extends in the cross-web direction across the first coverweb;
 - a nonwoven fibrous second coverweb;
 - a plurality of elastic filaments extending in a direction along the length of the article, the plurality of elastic filaments located between the first coverweb and the second coverweb, wherein each elastic filament of the plurality of elastic filaments extends continuously over the entire length of the article; and

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binder impregnating the first coverweb and the second coverweb;
wherein the article is free of any woven or knitted webs.

19. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing an elastic composite article having a width and a length greater than the width of the article, the method comprising:

providing a nonwoven fibrous first coverweb comprising a down-web direction aligned with the length of the article and a cross-web direction transverse to the down-web direction, wherein the first coverweb comprises a tear pattern in the form of a plurality of separate and distinct weakened areas in the first coverweb;

providing a second coverweb;

locating a plurality of elastic filaments between the first coverweb and the second coverweb after providing the plurality of weakened areas in the first coverweb, wherein each elastic filament of the plurality of elastic filaments extends continuously in a direction along the length of the article; and

attaching the first coverweb to the second coverweb after forming the tear pattern in the first coverweb and after locating the plurality of elastic filaments between the first coverweb and the second coverweb.

20. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 19, wherein the elastic composite article is free of any knitted or woven webs.

21. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 19, wherein the second coverweb comprises a nonwoven fibrous web, and wherein attaching the first coverweb to the second coverweb comprises binder impregnating the first coverweb and the second coverweb with a binder.

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22. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 21, wherein the binder comprises cohesive binder material, wherein the elastic composite article comprises a cohesive elastic composite article.

23. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 19, wherein the second coverweb is free of any weakened areas.

24. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 19, wherein the tear pattern in the first coverweb comprises a plurality of rows of the weakened areas, wherein each row of the plurality of rows extends in the cross-web direction across the first coverweb, and wherein the rows are distributed along the down-web direction of the first coverweb.

25. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 19, wherein the second coverweb comprises a down-web direction aligned with the length of the article and a cross-web direction transverse to the down-web direction, and wherein the second coverweb further comprises a tear pattern in the form of a plurality of separate and distinct weakened areas formed in the second coverweb.

26. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 19, wherein providing the first coverweb comprises:

forming a fibrous web;

forming the tear pattern in the fibrous web; and

applying a binder solution to the fibrous web after forming the tear pattern to form the first coverweb.

27. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 19, wherein providing the first coverweb comprises:

forming a fibrous web;

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applying a binder solution to the fibrous web; and

forming the tear pattern after applying the binder solution to form the first coverweb with the tear pattern therein.

28. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 19, wherein the weakened areas comprise embossed areas.

29. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 19, wherein the weakened areas comprise perforations formed through the first coverweb.

30. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 19, wherein the second coverweb comprises a nonwoven fibrous coverweb comprising a down-web direction aligned with the length of the article and a cross-web direction transverse to the down-web direction, and wherein the second coverweb further comprises a tear pattern in the form of a plurality of separate and distinct weakened areas formed in the second coverweb.

31. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 30, wherein the tear pattern in the second coverweb is formed before attaching the first coverweb to the second coverweb.

32. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 30, wherein providing the second coverweb comprises:

forming a fibrous web;

forming the tear pattern in the fibrous web; and

applying a binder solution to the fibrous web after forming the tear pattern to form the second coverweb.

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33. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 30, wherein providing the second coverweb comprises:

forming a fibrous web;

applying a binder solution to the fibrous web; and

forming the tear pattern after applying the binder solution to form the second coverweb with the tear pattern therein.

34. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 30, wherein the tear pattern in the second coverweb comprises a plurality of rows of the weakened areas, wherein each row of the plurality of rows extends in the cross-web direction across the second coverweb, and wherein the rows are distributed along the down-web direction of the second coverweb.

35. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 30, wherein the first coverweb and the second coverweb are substantially identical.

36. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 30, wherein the weakened areas of the first coverweb are not aligned with the weakened areas of the second coverweb.

37. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 30, wherein, within the plurality of weakened areas, the weakened areas located adjacent each other across the cross-web direction of the second coverweb are separated by a land, and further wherein the ratio of a cross-web width of one of the adjacent weakened areas to a cross-web width of the land between the adjacent weakened areas is 1:1 or higher.

38. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 30, wherein, within the plurality of weakened areas, the weakened areas located adjacent each other across the cross-web direction of the second coverweb are separated by a land, and further wherein the ratio of a cross-web width of

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one of the adjacent weakened areas to a cross-web width of the land between the adjacent weakened areas is 1.5:1 or higher.

39. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 30, wherein the weakened areas in the second coverweb comprise embossed areas.

40. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 30, wherein the weakened areas in the second coverweb comprise perforations formed through the second coverweb.

41. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 19, further comprising providing a layer of pressure sensitive adhesive on at least one major side of the elastic composite article.

42. (New) An article according to claim 1, wherein all of the elastic filaments located between the first coverweb and the second coverweb extend continuously over the entire length of the article.

43. (New) An article according to claim 18, wherein all of the elastic filaments located between the first coverweb and the second coverweb extend continuously over the entire length of the article.